



**Van Buren County Farmland Preservation Board  
Administration and Land Services Building  
219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw**

**November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Minutes**

**Regular Meeting**

Call to order at 6:36 pm

**Present:** Amy Lockhart, Tom Erdmann, Dave Foerster, Bill Lawson, Don MacKellar, Scott Cedarquist

**Absent:** Bill Mihelich/Mike Rainey, Ted Major, Mike Pioch/Laura Strehlow, Wayne Hammond, Kurt Doroh

**Public:**

**Agenda:** Agenda was accepted with one addition: New Business: Board Vacancy

**Minutes** of August 14<sup>th</sup> : Motion by Bill Lawson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Erdmann to accept the minutes with changes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** none

**Reports:**

*County Commissioner* – Tom Erdmann reported that South Haven Township master plan was finalized on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> and the public hearing should be scheduled sometimes in December.

*Township Representatives* –

Bill Lawson reported that the Hamilton Township plan has been approved and includes farmland preservation elements.

Discussion was held regarding master plan noticing sequence and involvement of the County planning commission. Foerster suggested that the planning commission remind the townships of notification requirements and the timeline for doing so.

Don Mackellar reported that Decatur's new Township Supervisor, Mike Alaga is also on the planning commission and is very interested in continuing land preservation efforts.

Dave Foerster reported that Waverly township has had some turn-over in elected officials and also that certain elements of land preservation were incorporated into the master plan, but mentioned the opportunity may be present for more additions.

**Old Business:**

*Fundraising* – Dave Foerster reported that Jeff Radtke had been working on a Texas Hold-em tournament as a fundraiser for the LPB but he will likely not be continuing work on the project. The gaming license has been approved, the next step is to find a company to work with and get on the schedule. Tom Erdmann will work on scheduling and get back to Dave & Amy with findings.

*County wide land use planning*– Discussion was held on how to involve the County planning commission in working toward a county wide land use plan. The next planning commission



**Van Buren County Farmland Preservation Board  
Administration and Land Services Building  
219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw**

meeting is scheduled for Wed. Nov 19th

*Lachman farm annual monitoring* – Annual monitoring form was completed and will be filed with MDA.

**New Business:**

*APFB Policies* – Dave Foerster pointed out changes to the State Ag Preservation Fund policies. Tom Erdmann suggested including a summary of the important hi-lights before sending this document out to townships. Lockhart will contact Beth Juras to see if the State has already done a summary for townships that we could use.

*County phosphorous fertilizer ban* – Lockhart reported that the public hearing for the phosphorous ban had been held and the Two Rivers Coalition & Van Buren Conservation District created an informational brochure for residents to help explain the benefits of the ordinance. The ordinance will appear on the Board of Commissioners agenda after the 50 day waiting period for a new ordinance.

*Farming for the Future 2008 conference* – Lockhart reported that the Van Buren, Cass, Kalamazoo and Allegan Conservation Districts are hosting a day-long farm conference in Lawrence on November 18 and encouraged all LPB members to attend.

*Board vacancy* – Wayne Hammond provided a letter of resignation and suggested other elected officials to fill his position. Don MacKellar will speak with Mike Alaga to see if he would be interested in serving on the board to fill the “elected official” spot.

**Next Meeting:** **\*\*NOTE:** there will be no LPB meeting in December, the next meeting will be January 8, 2009 at 6:30pm

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 pm  
Submitted by Amy Lockhart  
269-657-4030 Ext. 5